

LIVESTOCK STATISTICS

31st MARCH, 1958

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Bulletin No. 9 of 1958.

Numbers of Livestock in the State for the year ended March 1958 and the two previous years compared with the years ended March 1944 and 1946, being years immediately before and at the end of the two year drought period, are shown in the following table:-

Numbers - as at 31st March

Classification	1944 '000	1946 '000	1956 '000	1957 '000	1958 '000
SHEEP					
Under 1 year	2,328.0	925.8	2,906.3	3,457.2	3,436.8
1 year and over	8,031.7	5,860.7	10,678.6	11,526.6	11,799.7
Total	10,359.7	6,786.5	13,584.9	14,983.8	15,236.5
CATTLE					
Dairy Cows	187.6	175.7	195.0	194.5	191.2
Other Dairy Cattle	65.5	55.6	69.3	71.0	67.6
Beef Cattle	161.9	142.8	301.8	356.1	338.4
Total	415.0	374.1	566.1	621.6	597.2
HORSES	154.1	115.9	44.5	41.0	35.7
PIGS	186.0	120.0	72.9	92.2	108.3

SHEEP Continuing the upward trend of recent years the number of sheep at 31.3.58 totalled 15,236,545 which is 252,697 or 1.68% in excess of the previous record in 1957. The small increase this year compared with an increase of 1,400,000 the previous year is accounted for by increases of over 900,000 in slaughterings and 100,000 in mortality.

Numbers as at 31st March are as follows:-

Classification	1944 '000	1946 '000	1956 '000	1957 '000	1958 '000
Rams	140.2	109.4	169.8	184.3	188.7
Breeding Ewes	5,046.4	3,882.9	6,324.5	6,976.2	6,578.7
Other Ewes	786.0	380.8	750.6	719.6	1,045.0
Wethers	2,059.1	1,487.6	3,433.7	3,646.5	3,987.2
Lambs	2,328.0	925.8	2,906.3	3,457.2	3,436.9
Total	10,359.7	6,786.5	13,584.9	14,983.8	15,236.5

BREEDS OF SHEEP Particulars of the breeds of sheep as at 31st March 1958 compared with 1957 (in parentheses) are:-

	'000	'000		'000	'000
Merino	12,641.3	(12,578.5)	Suffolk	14.0	(14.7)
Corriedale	900.5	(835.1)	Southdown	4.6	(5.5)
Polwarth	54.2	(41.4)	Other & unspecified		
Dorset Horn	32.0	(35.6)	pure breeds	9.1	(9.1)
Romney Marsh	22.7	(32.4)	Merino Comeback	317.2	(292.8)
Border Leicester	18.8	(19.4)	Crossbred	1,222.1	(1,119.3)

LAMBING

The number of ewes mated in 1957 was 6,567,967 an increase of 6.93% over the previous record of 6,142,419 in 1956 while the number of lambs marked, 5,056,130, was also a record, exceeding the 1956 figure of 4,909,922 by 2.98%.

The lambing percentage of 76.98% was slightly lower than the record of 79.93% established in 1957.

Details of lambing during the past three years compared with lambing during 1943 and 1945 are as follows:

Particulars	Unit	1943	1945	1955	1956	1957
Ewes Mated	'000	4,645.4	3,036.0	5,654.5	6,142.4	6,568.0
Lambs Marked	'000	3,322.8	1,469.8	4,439.7	4,909.9	5,056.1
Lambing Percentage	%	71.53	48.41	78.51	79.93	76.98

In 1958, it was intended to mate 4,696,725 ewes to Merino, Corriedale or Polwarth rams and 1,628,354 to rams of other breeds.

WOOL CLIP

Lower wool prices and a decreased wool production, estimated at 183,500,000 lbs. caused the total value of wool produced to fall by 28% of the previous year's value of £57,300,000 to approximately £42,000,000.

The last three seasons are compared with 1950/51 (the season of boom prices) in the following table:

Particulars	Unit	1950-51	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
Sheep and lambs shorn	'000	10,736	14,484	15,717	17,085
Total Clip, Crutchings, etc.	'000 lb.	114,309	158,182	175,274	168,464
Average per fleece	lb.	10.65	10.92	11.15	9.86
Total Wool Production (a)	'000 lb.	125,384	173,697	188,808	183,500 (b)
Value of Production	£000	66,247	39,911	57,289	42,000 (b)
Average price (greasy), Adelaide	d.	129.16	56.38	73.82	56.11

(a) Includes fellmongered wool, wool exported on skins and dead wool.

(b) Preliminary.

CATTLE

The total cattle numbered 597,241, being a decrease of 24,336 or 3.92% on the record of 621,577 established in 1957.

The fall in cattle numbers was due to a decrease of 20,000 in imports from other States combined with an increase of 29,000 in slaughterings and a small increase in mortality. The slaughtering of cows increased by 16,000 and calves by 14,500 with a decrease of 1,500 bullocks.

Details as at 31st March are given below:-

Classification	1944	1946	1956	1957	1958
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
DAIRY CATTLE					
Cows - In Milk	111.0	112.0	102.5	104.0	98.6
Dry	50.7	38.1	63.3	62.6	65.4
Springing Heifers	25.9	25.6	29.2	27.9	27.2
Total	187.6	175.7	195.0	194.5	191.2
Other Heifers	18.1	16.9	18.1	16.9	18.5
Bulls	7.4	7.1	8.8	8.8	8.6
Calves	40.0	31.6	42.4	45.3	40.5
Total	253.1	231.3	264.2	265.5	258.8
BEEF CATTLE					
Cows and Heifers	71.9	70.5	144.4	171.9	169.6
Bulls	1.9	2.1	5.8	6.7	6.8
Calves	40.8	27.6	73.1	100.1	86.6
Other	47.3	42.6	78.5	77.4	75.4
Total	161.9	142.8	301.8	356.1	338.4
TOTAL CATTLE	415.0	374.1	566.1	621.6	597.2

DAIRY
PRODUCTION

The following table, with provisional figures for 1957-58 shows production figures for the last three years compared with those of 1943-44 and 1945-46.

Milk production is the lowest since 1946. The record production of milk was 93,950,000 gallons in 1947.

Cheese and Bacon production show slight annual decreases over the last 4 years, while butter production fell considerably to the lowest level since 1930-31.

Production	Unit	1943-44	1945-46	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
Butter	'000 lb.	19,803.7	18,541.2	19,541.3	19,260.3	16,100.0
Cheese	'000 lb.	19,726.0	22,478.9	28,297.4	26,786.9	23,500.0
Bacon and Ham	'000 lb.	10,315.6	11,734.8	7,676.5	7,294.8	6,850.0
Grand Total Milk Production	'000 gall.	78,150.0	79,350.0	90,300.0	89,900.0	80,000.0

PIGS

The number of pigs varies from year to year but has been lower in recent years than 10-20 years ago, the maximum being 190,068 in 1940.

Numbers during the last three years are compared with 1944 and 1946 in the following table.

Numbers - as at 31st March

Classification	Unit	1944	1946	1956	1957	1958
Boars	'000	3.7	2.8	1.9	2.4	2.6
Breeding Sows	'000	21.9	15.6	10.8	14.8	16.0
All Other	'000	160.4	101.6	60.2	75.0	89.7
Total	'000	186.0	120.0	72.9	92.2	108.3

HORSES

While the horse numbers have decreased from 200,900 in 1936 to 35,700 in 1958, the tractor numbers have increased from 4,600 to 26,000 in 1957. The record number of horses was 283,641 in 1913.

The following table giving totals for 1936 compared with numbers of horses for the years ending 31st March 1944, 1946 and the last two years, shows the trend in recent years.

Classification	Unit	1936	1944	1946	1957	1958
Foals	'000	17.5	5.7	2.2	2.1	2.0
Draught Horses	'000	183.4	105.4	78.0	8.8	6.6
Other Horses	'000)	43.0	35.8	30.1	27.1
Total	'000	200.9	154.1	116.0	41.0	35.7

SLAUGHTERINGS The numbers of livestock slaughtered during the years ended 30th June 1956 to 1958 and the years ended December 1943 and 1945 are compared below. 1958 figures are preliminary.

Classification	Unit	1943	1945	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
Sheep	'000	1,105.5	1,330.3	1,254.2	1,254.2	1,842.9
Lambs	'000	1,374.2	686.7	1,103.4	1,074.9	1,380.5
Cattle & Calves	'000	189.0	147.5	227.4	252.0	280.9
Pigs	'000	192.3	206.3	132.2	123.7	168.6

MORTALITY LOSS The reported losses of livestock from drought and all other causes during the years ended 31st March 1955 to 1958 are compared with the year ending 31st March 1946 in the following table:-

Classification	Unit	Year ending 31st March				
		1946	1955	1956	1957	1958
Sheep	'000	1,167.0	436.4	447.0	475.0	584.8
Lambs	'000	133.2	103.4	116.0	129.2	148.6
Cattle	'000	23.6	17.0	18.0	19.7	22.1
Horses	'000	14.2	3.1	2.2	1.9	1.7
Pigs	'000	7.8	6.3	5.5	6.5	8.3

LIVESTOCK IN DIVISIONS The numbers of livestock in divisions at the 31st March, the increases and the percentage increases for the State are shown for the years 1957 and 1958 in the table below.

Details for Year ending 31st March

Division	SHEEP		CATTLE		HORSES		PIGS	
	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Central	3,227.4	3,292.1	164.8	170.2	9.4	11.0	44.1	39.1
Lower North	2,057.9	2,183.6	32.3	37.2	3.6	4.1	23.5	19.5
Upper North	1,200.2	1,237.9	19.4	22.9	2.8	3.0	3.9	3.8
South Eastern	3,967.5	3,336.9	177.7	171.3	5.1	5.2	7.8	6.1
Western	2,345.7	2,346.0	15.9	16.1	3.4	4.4	16.7	13.5
Murray Mallee	1,363.8	1,382.6	27.3	29.5	2.2	2.6	12.3	10.2
Total Counties	14,162.5	13,786.1	437.4	447.2	26.5	30.0	108.3	92.2
Outside Counties	1,074.0	1,197.7	159.8	174.4	9.2	11.1	.0	-
Total State	15,236.5	14,983.8	597.2	621.6	35.7	41.1	108.3	92.2
Increase over previous year	252.7	1,398.9	- 24.4	55.5	- 5.4	- 3.4	16.1	19.3
Percentage Increase	1.69%	10.30%	- 3.93%	9.81%	-13.13%	-7.69%	17.46%	26.41%

GOYDER'S
LINE

The table below shows the number of sheep, cattle and horses within and beyond Goyder's Line in 1927 (just prior to the 1927-29 drought), 1952 and 1958. The numbers of sheep and cattle outside Goyder's Line in 1952 were only slightly different from the 1927 figures, but have risen steadily in the past six years. Within Goyder's Line the numbers rose generally to 1952 and sharply since then, so that the percentage within Goyder's Line has increased substantially. This has been largely due to the increase in top-dressed pastures.

Numbers of horses throughout South Australia have been falling steadily since 1936, but the decline has been more rapid within Goyder's Line (only 60% of horses now being within this line compared with 72% in 1936).

Details of livestock for the years 1927, 1952 and 1958 are as follows:-

Live-stock	Within Goyder's Line			Beyond Goyder's Line			Percentage within		
	1927	1952	1958	1927	1952	1958	1927	1952	1958
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
Sheep	4,515.3	8,367.4	11,716.7	3,027.1	3,102.7	3,519.8	59.87	72.95	76.90
Cattle	160.5	288.3	406.0	155.2	149.2	191.3	50.75	65.90	67.98
Horses	159.0	44.5	21.4	65.6	18.7	14.3	70.99	70.39	60.18

AREAS UNDER
DEVELOPMENT

The following table shows increases in the numbers of sheep and cattle between March 1951 and March 1958, in counties where development has been most rapid and where the greatest increases in top-dressed pastures have occurred.

County	Division	Sheep			Cattle		
		1951	1958	Increase	1951	1958	Increase
		'000	'000	%	No	No	%
Cardwell	South East	53.7	229.1	327	697	4,190	501
Carnarvon	Central	117.2	324.2	177	1,727	5,047	192
Buckingham	South East	254.6	563.5	121	3,719	11,709	215
Robe	" "	524.4	1,118.4	113	15,766	40,609	158
MacDonnell	" "	306.3	625.2	104	6,141	16,853	174
Grey	" "	704.7	1,431.3	103	66,133	104,292	58
Russell	Murray Mallee	123.8	230.3	86	11,078	14,349	30
Flinders	Western	316.4	481.6	52	2,716	4,704	73
Balance	-	7,765.4	10,232.9	32	324,589	395,488	22
TOTAL STATE		10,166.5	15,236.5	50	432,566	597,241	38

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7th August, 1958